

The nest is like that of the rest of the family, a few pieces of grass, upon which the eggs are laid, but on the whole greatly depending on the nature of the ground.

The breeding-season lasts from August to January; but in confinement they will lay almost at any time of the year.

The young upon leaving the shell are of a dusky hue, almost black.

XXIII.—*Note on Cichladusa arquata and C. guttata.*

By Dr. M. T. VON HEUGLIN*.

(Plate IX.)

AMONGST the rich natural-history collections brought by Professor Peters from the east coast of Africa, there was a bird which has been described by its discoverer under the name of *Cichladusa arquata*. A little later the same bird was described by Dr. Hartlaub as *Bradyornis spekii*, from a specimen collected by Capt. Speke at Kazeh. Apparently congeneric is a smaller species from the White Nile, observed by me between lat. 5° and lat. 7° N.

Prof. Peters characterizes his genus *Cichladusa* as follows:—"The wing- and tail-feathers, as well as the caligated tarsi, are as in the genus *Bessonornis*, from which, however, it differs in its stronger beak, the stiff suberected feathers of the forehead, and the rounded nostrils." A generic separation seems to be necessary. From *Bradyornis* it differs in its lively manners. *Bradyornis* is a slow, indolent, songless, Muscicapine form, somewhat allied to *Ruticilla*, and to the very aberrant *Saxicola rufocinerea*, Rüpp.

I add full descriptions of both species.

1. *CICHLADUSA ARQUATA*, Peters, Monatsber. K. Akad. Wissensch. Berlin, 16 March 1863; Journ. für Orn. 1864, p. 352. *Bradyornis spekii*, Hartl., Proc. Zool. Soc. 1863, p. 105; Sclat. Proc. Zool. Soc. 1864, p. 108, No. 6. "Morning Warbler," Speke, *loc. cit.* (Plate IX. fig. 1.)

* [Kindly communicated by Dr. Hartlaub.—ED.]

Supra ex olivaceo rufescens; capitis et colli lateribus subcinerascens; alis, uropygio et cauda cinnamomeo-rufis; subalaribus dilute fulvis; remigibus majoribus dimidio apicali pogonii interni oblique fusco-nigricantibus, ex parte albido marginatis; tertiariis rufescenti-fuliginosis, obsoletius rufo marginatis; tectricibus alæ dorso concoloribus, pallide rufo marginatis; plumis pollicis pogonio interno fuliginosis, externo rufis; subtus ex olivaceo isabellino-fulva, pectore et hypochondriis cinereo lavatis; gula fulvescenti-albida, rufescente lavata, fascia e maculis nigricantibus composita et utrinque ad angulum oris prolongata circumdata; subcaudalibus fulvo-ochraceis; rostro et pedibus nigricantibus; iride straminea. Long. tot. circa 7" 9", rostr. a fr. 8", al. 3" 6", tars. 1", caud. 3" 8".

Observed by Professor Peters near Sena, and by Speke at Kazeh. On high trees near the margin of the woods. Said to be a very fine songster.

2. CICHLADUSA GUTTATA. *Crateropus guttatus*, Heuglin, Syst. Uebers. Vög. N.-O. Afr., Sitzungsber. K. Akad. Wien, xix. p. 282, No. 287; Hartl. Orn. W. Afr. p. 272; Heugl. Journ. für Orn. 1863, p. 300; Peters, *op. cit.* 1864, p. 353. (Plate IX. fig. 2.)

♂ Minor, supra cinnamomea, pileo cinereo lavato; subtus albida rufescente induta; ciliis, stria obsoleta superciliari genisque albidis; stria transoculari et regione parotica obsolete fumosis, hac albido striolata; frontis plumis rigidiusculis, valde angustatis, scapis nitidis fuscescentibus; colli et pectoris lateribus maculis rotundatis conspicuis nigro-fuliginosis squamatim notatis; hypochondriis eodem colore obsoletius striolatis; subalaribus et tibiis ex rufo fuscescentibus, albido variis; remige primo ex hepatico rufo, reliquis basi hepatico-rufis, apicem versus fuliginosis; ex parte rufo marginatis; rectricibus cinnamomeo-rufis, apicem versus fuliginoso lavatis; rostro nigro; iride scarlatina; pedibus plumbeo-fuscis. Long. tot. 6½", rostr. a fr. 6½", al. 3", caud. 3", tars. 1½–12".

♀ Vix minor, a mare diversa: pileo pure ferrugineo, non ut in mare cinerascente lavato.

Tail moderately rounded. The first tail-feather 5" or 6" shorter than the two middle ones. The tail-feathers and the tertials show faint traces of transverse bands.

Lives in pairs near the banks of the White Nile, on low shrubs and high trees. Flutters Thrush-like from branch to branch. The song is very sweet and variable. The food consists of insects and worms. My birds were collected in the months of February and March; and I do not know whether *C. guttata* is resident or not.

XXIV.—*Ornithological Notes from the Ethiopian Region.* By ROWLAND M. SPERLING, Acting-Commander, H.M.S. 'Racoon.'

THE following notes were taken during the months of October, November, and December 1867, when the 'Racoon' went from Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope, to Zanzibar and back, touching at some intermediate places. The exhaustive catalogue which my friend Mr. Layard has recently published on the birds of South Africa is so complete that I have not here noticed many birds that came under my observation, as it would only have been going twice over the same ground; and I have furthermore availed myself of his knowledge of the avifauna of this country to request him to verify the specimens that I brought back, a task which he has kindly performed.

We started from the Cape on the 7th of October. Standing out of False Bay, before the last puffs of a north-westerly wind, its usual ornithological features were presented. Small flocks of Gannets hovered over the shoals of fish that frequent these waters, occasionally making perpendicular swoops on their prey. A few Penguins, with nothing but their quaint grey heads visible, uttered their melancholy whistle and sank like phantoms as we glided by, while immense flocks of Shags were flying in triangular-shaped flocks from Cape Point, to which extremity they always retire in northerly winds. We had not lost sight of Cape Hangklip when every breath of air left us, and for two days we lay on the Agullas bank, "as idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean"—a most unusual occurrence to happen off the Stormy Cape. However, I availed myself of the calm



M T von Heuglin pinx.
J. Wolf lithog.

M & N Hanhart imp

I CICHLADUSA ARQUATA. 2. C. GUTTATA